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U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/557,889
Reply to OA dated May 11, 2009

AUG 06 2009

REMARKS

Claims 2, 6-9 and 13 are amended in order to present allowable claims in independent form and to correct errors of a typographical nature. The Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been added. Claims 1, 5 and 16 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. New Claim 17, depending from allowed Claim 9 is added. It is believed that this Amendment is fully responsive to the Office Action dated May 11, 2009.

In the Office Action, Claims 3, 4, 8, 9, 11, 12, 15 and 16 are indicated as allowed. Also, Claims 2, 6, 7, 10, 13 and 14 are indicated as being allowable, if rewritten in independent form. Claims 2, 6 and 13 are amended to be in independent form.

In the Office Action, Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Membrino (U.S. Patent No. 3,889,449).

In view of the cancellation of Claim 1, the rejection is moot.

In the Office Action, Claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Membrino.

In view of the cancellation of Claim 5, the rejection is moot.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, Claims 2-4 and 6-15 and 17, are believed to be patentable and in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

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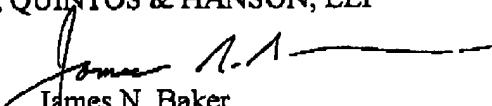
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If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the Applicants' undersigned agent at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, the Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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